

67 *Am 13* → 62. (First Amendment) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the laminate is capable of recovering instantaneously, over time or upon the application of heat depending on the degree of stretch past the deformation limit of at least one skin layer in the [activated] activation zones.

68 *Am 15* → 64. (First Amendment) The elastomeric laminate of claim 63 wherein the ABA block copolymer comprises a styrene-isoprene-styrene, [styrene-butadiene-styrene] styrene-butadiene-styrene or styrene-ethylene butylene-styrene block copolymer.

#### Remarks

Reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Non-elected claims 38-45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue these claims in a subsequent divisional application.

Claims 1-37 and 46-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with regard to certain terminology. Those rejections, as they apply to the claims as amended, are considered obviated and respectfully requested withdrawn.

Claim 1 stood rejected in the use of the phrase "laminate comprising at least one nonelastomeric skin layer and at least one at least partially elastomeric core layer ...". Claim 1 has been substantially amended so as to clarify the nature of the skin and core layers, particularly with regard to the formation of the preferential activation zone. Further, the preferential activation zone has been further defined as that area of the multi-layer laminate which will preferentially elongate when the laminate is stretched, which elongate region can then recover (as described in the specification) to form an

elastic zone in the multi-layer laminate. This preferential activation zone can be provided by a wide variety of methods which are described in particularity in the specification in the passages from page 17, line 5, to page 26, line 2. Generally, the skin and/or the core layer of the multi-layer laminate will be modified in some manner or be compositionally adjusted in the preferential or non-preferential activation regions such that the preferential activation region or zone will preferentially elongate and recover when the multi-layer laminate is stretched.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 10, 22, 31, 37, 62 and 64 have been amended to correct minor syntactical and grammatical problems.

Independent claim 29 has been amended substantially in accordance with the amendments to independent claim 1.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims overcome the outstanding rejections and are in immediate condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statements (with attached forms 1449) submitted on June 22, 1990, July 17, 1991 and August 12, 1991.

In view of the above, further and favorable action in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
William J. Bond  
Registration No. 32,400

Dated: 11/19/91

MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY  
3M Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
P.O. Box 33427  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55144-3427  
(612) 736-4790  
WJBAMD1/44938-5A.7